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STATE OF GEORGIA,
ADJUT. & INSP. GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Milledgeville, Dec. 29th, 1863. }

Special Instructions to Surgeons.

SIR: The following instructions are published for the guidance of Surgeons appointed for the Senatorial Districts under the 15th Section of the Act of December 14th 1863, "re-organizing the Militia:"

I... In your examination of persons, you must exercise a sound and firm discretion and not yield your judgment in favor of every complaint of trivial disability, by attaching too much importance to which, they indirectly favor evasions of the required military service.

II... As a general rule, it may be received, that where an individual is equal to all the active duties of the various occupations of civil life, he is able to discharge the duties of a soldier.

III... The following are some of the grounds not deemed sufficient and satisfactory for exemption.

1. *General Debility.*—The grades of this condition are numerous, and in receiving them all as grounds for exemption, you can not be considered as discharging your duty to the State. In arriving at a correct judgment upon this point, you will be aided by the consideration, that observation has by no means established that a so called high standard of health is best adapted to encounter the exposures of military life, such physical condition being especially liable to disease; while health of a lower grade, without any co-existing positive disease, is frequently strengthened and improved by the exposures incident to the life of a soldier.

2. In case of *slight deformity*, natural or the result of accident and irregular union of fractures, unless material impairment of power and motion results from such deformity, the individual must be held liable for military service.

3. *Deafness*.—This is not a valid reason for exemption unless excessive, and the fact of its existence must be well established.

4. *Impediment of Speech*.—Unless of a very aggravated character, is not a valid reason for exemption.

5. *Heart Disease, (organic)*.—Organic disease of the heart being comparatively infrequent, the physical and rational signs should be scrutinized with great care, and the subject of examination should not be excused unless the case is satisfactorily established.

6. *Functional Disturbance of the Heart's action*.—This is very common, not a valid ground for exemption, and is generally relieved by camp life.

7. *Rheumatism*.—The kind should be designated, whether acute or chronic, articular or muscular. It is a complaint liable to be used as a means of evasion. When it is simply muscular without swelling or contraction of joints, and the general health of the individual is otherwise sound, he should be held liable to military service.

8. *Epilepsy*.—This disease being frequently simulated, so as to impose upon a careless observer, nothing less than the observation of an actual paroxysm, or the affidavit of a responsible physician acquainted with the individual should be deemed satisfactory.

9. *Varicocele*.—Not a ground for exemption, unless excessive.

10. *Myopia*.—Not a ground for exemption. Many myopic subjects distinguish objects with accuracy sufficient for all practical purposes.

11. *Hemorrhoids*.—As many individuals in civil life subjects of this disorder, are engaged in active occupations, they should not unless excessive, be considered satisfactory grounds for exemption.

12. *Loss of one Eye*.—Not valid ground for exemption.

13. *The loss of one or two fingers*.—Not sufficient ground for exemption.

14. *Single Reducible Hernia*.—Not a valid reason for exemption.

15. *Urethral Stricture*.—Not as a general rule proper cause for exemption. Many thus affected, perform all the ordinary duties of life, and on this ground should be enrolled.

16. The mere determination and announcement of the existence of such diseases as scrofula, hepatitis, spinal irritation and cachexia, do not warrant exemption: their special seat, degree of development; and the consequent disqualifying condition, as well as the general state of the system, must be discerned and intelligibly reported.

17. In cases of atrophy of the limbs, definite and satisfactory explanations must be made as to its cause, extent, and the accompanying loss of power.

18. In tuberculosis, the extent of the disease should, as far as practicable, be diagnosed, and full statements made as to the loss of flesh, and other prominent symptoms.

19. Very many dyspeptics are benefited, if not entirely relieved by the change of life, and the active duties of a soldier in the field. Dyspepsia, therefore, unless of an extremely aggravated character, and accompanied with much emaciation and debility, is not accepted as authority for exemption.

20. Whenever discernable, in all cases not accepted, the degree or extent, and the seat and duration of the existing disability should be distinctly set forth.

21. If individuals appearing before the board do not *then* present perfectly satisfactory evidence of the complaint for which exemption is claimed, they should be enrolled

By order of the Commander-in-Chief:

HENRY C. WAYNE,

Adjutant & Inspector General.

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